



News

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NEWS RELEASE

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State Revokes Skyline Journey's License

Skyline Journey's state license will be revoked Oct. 25 by the Utah Human Services Office of Licensing. The outdoor program for troubled youth was notified today that it has 10 working days to appeal the action. If they appeal, the program will continue operating until administrative hearings are completed.

The revocation notice comes following an investigation of the July 13 death of 14-year-old Ian August. Licensing officials found four violations of their administrative rules:

- Hiking on July 13 exceeded the physical capability of Ian who was weaker than the other hikers.
- No evidence was found that Skyline conducted a proper admission screening in Ian's case. The review should have included thorough consideration of his health history. Information provided to the program indicated that Ian had "low heat tolerance" and was taking medication that could have been a factor in an exposure-related illness.
- A physical exam form Skyline gave Ian's doctor violated licensing rules because it did not describe the physical demands of the program or the environment in which it was conducted.
- Program staff did not treat the effects of heat illness in a timely or reasonable manner. Ian was left sitting and laying in direct sunlight for up to an hour after he stopped hiking before staff moved him out of the sun and attempted to cool him with water.

"The decision to revoke was based on a thorough review of our investigation," Licensing Director Ken Stettler said. "We also used supporting evidence from law enforcement and the medical examiner."

Ian's death was the fifth one in a Utah wilderness program since 1990. Nine youth wilderness programs have state licenses.

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